



June 7, 2007

Vol. 12, No. 42

Many activities on the pad fill the hours until launch



◆ Shuttle Update:

This morning, the launch countdown entered a four-hour built-in hold at T-19 hours (1 a.m.). Activities included demating the orbiter midbody umbilical unit (1:30 a.m.), resuming orbiter and ground support equipment closeouts, and loading cryogenic reactants into Atlantis' fuel cell storage tanks (3 a.m.). The countdown resumed at 5 a.m.

Final preparations of the shuttle's three main engines for main propellant tanking and flight began at 5 a.m. Filling the pad sound suppression system water tank began at 7 a.m. and should be complete at 10 a.m. Closing out the tail service masts on the mobile launcher platform will follow and star tracker functional checks will begin at 12:50 p.m. The countdown will enter a planned hold at T-11 hours (1 p.m.) for 13 hours, 42 minutes.

The next activities are to activate the orbiter's inertial measurement units and communications systems, install film in numerous cameras on the launch pad at

2:25 p.m., stow flight crew equipment at 6:40 p.m., and move the rotating service structure to the park position at 10:30 p.m.

◆ **ELV Update:** The launch of the Dawn spacecraft has been changed. The new date is July 7. The launch window is 4:09:31 to 4:36:22 p.m. Dawn is in Astrotech's Hazardous Processing Facility where xenon for the ion propulsion system is being loaded. Fueling will take place on June 10. The launch vehicle, a Delta II rocket, is on the launch pad waiting for solid rocket booster buildup.

Dawn's mission is to explore two of the asteroid belt's most intriguing and dissimilar occupants: asteroid Vesta and the dwarf planet Ceres.



■ Protect Self, Vehicles During Launch

Launch of STS-117 is scheduled for Friday at 7:38 p.m. All employees should be aware

that a potential for deposition of solid rocket motor exhaust exists under certain meteorological conditions. Because of its acidic nature, the residue may be mildly irritating to the skin and contact should be avoided. Please take appropriate action to protect your property and avoid contact with exhaust cloud products. If you observe residue on your personal vehicle, or assigned government vehicle, it should be washed off as soon as possible.

■ **June Health Education Information Table Presents Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer** — Summer officially starts this month and that means more sun exposure. Skin cancer (including melanoma and nonmelanoma skin cancer) is the

most common of all cancers, probably accounting for more than half of all cancers and increasing. This is probably due to a combination of increased detection and more sun exposure.

The most important ways to lower the risk of nonmelanoma skin cancer are to avoid being outdoors in intense sunlight too long and to practice sun safety when you are outdoors.



The June 2007 health packet presents all forms of nonmelanoma skin cancer, detection and prevention.

The monthly health education table will be set up from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **to-day** in the KSC Headquarters cafeteria where you can pick up the packets and sun safety information.

■ **New Master's Degrees** — Barry University is now offering two new master's degrees beginning with the fall semester: Master of Arts in Administration and a Master of Science in Information Technology (online). Both programs are 30 credits and can be completed in one year. Classes are scheduled in the evenings and weekends during five, eight-week terms. For more information, please call 321-453-6253 or send e-mail to lgrant@mail.barry.edu.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@jbsc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find *Countdown* on the Web at nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html.

Did You Know? Flag Day is June 14. What we know fondly as the "Stars and Stripes" was adopted by the Continental Congress as the official American flag on June 14, 1777, in the midst of the Revolutionary War. Flag Day was first celebrated in 1877, on the flag's 100th birthday. Read about the do's and don'ts of flying the flag at <http://www.almanac.com/edpicks/flag.php>.